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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Atty. Dkt. No. 03.09.17.1
Edward E. Miller)
) Art Unit: 1713
Serial No. 10/789,207) Examiner: Robert D. Harlan
Filing Date: 2/27/2004)
Title:) Duncan, Oklahoma 73534
)
WATER CONTROL IN A)
SUBSURFACE FORMATION) Date: March 11, 2006

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2005.

The rejection of claims 1-8 and 12-16 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kato is traversed for the following reasons.

Claims 1, 2 and 6 are drawn to a method of making a water soluble polymer of an acrylic acid compound. Claims 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 are drawn to method of making a water insoluble gel by reacting the water soluble polymer of claim 2 with a cross linking agent. Claims 12 and 13 are drawn to a method of making a water soluble polymer. Claims 14 and 15 are drawn to a method of adjusting the permeability of a subsurface formation by introducing into the formation a gel which is not water soluble, wherein the gel is formed by first making a water soluble polymer and then combining the water soluble polymer with a cross linking agent. Claim 16 is drawn to a method of adjusting